a miscellany of Fortean curiosites

THE NEWS

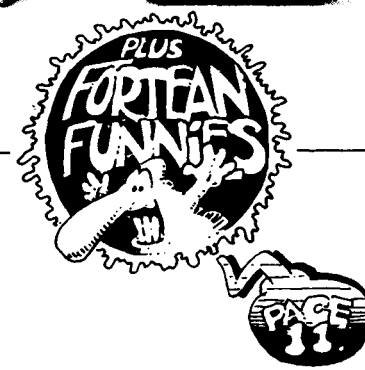
'PORTRAIT OF A FAULT AREA'
part 1 of a Fortean study of Leicestershire
by Paul Devereux & Andrew York ... 5

A Fortean chocolate-box top! -- Two closely related kittens break legs within hours of each other. Sunday Mirror, 7 April 1974.

some Synchronous aburdities.... 4

Miracle petrol substitutes 3 ....

Barmouth Monster continued 22



35p:$1·00

ISSN:0306-0764

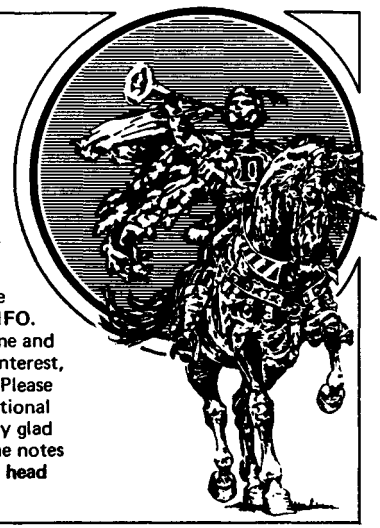
THE NEWS

bi-monthly notes on Fortean phenomena

THE NEWS is a non-profitmaking bi-monthly miscellany of Fortean news, notes and references; and is affiliated to the International Fortean Organisation (INFO) in continuing the work of **Charles Fort** (1874 – 1932). THE NEWS is edited by **Robert JM Rickard : Post Office Stores, Aldermaston, Berkshire, England.**

SUBSCRIPTIONS : 1 year (6 issues) : **UK : £2.10. USA : $6.00.** All other countries use dollar equivalent. Single issues : 35p / $1.00. Back issues (if available) : 40p / $1.15. Current INDEX free to subscribers, otherwise 20p/ 60¢ each. Cheques, POs, IMOs etc. make payable to **RJM Rickard**, not THE NEWS. All **overseas subscribers should add 10%** to the total if paying by cheque, to cover the banking exchange commission and charges.

CONTRIBUTIONS & RIGHTS : All articles in **THE NEWS** are copyright of the authors – and the views expressed are not necessarily those of **THE NEWS**, or **INFO.** Contributions of articles, notes and artwork on related subjects are always welcome and duly credited. – If you encounter any reference or data you think will be of interest, please make a note of the **source** and **date** (adding your **name**, for the crediting). Please don't assume our omniscience – there are very few duplications. Remember national daily newspapers have slightly different regional editions — and we are especially glad to see notes from professional sources, local papers, and rare or OP books. All the notes herein may be quoted freely, though we hope for a credit in return. **All category head art in this issue by Hunt Emerson.**



INFO's 3rd ANNUAL CONVENTION - FORTFEST 75.

It's getting very close but this might get to you in time. Venue is the Sheraton-Oak Brook Motor Hotel, 1401 West 22nd St, Oak Brook, Illinois 60521. Phone: (312) 325-8555. Dates: 8-10 August. Registration:

INFO Members.....$12.00.
Non-Members.....$ 7.00/day.
Students rate....$ 5.00/day with ID.
Full rate inc.
INFO Membership..$18.00.

Contact: Richard Crowe (Chicago area) on (312) 767-4481; and Paul Willis (703) 920-7120.

The event/speaker list has fattened out to contain: John Keel on The Mothman Prophecies; Loren Coleman; Dr Roy Mackal (Univ Chicago); Gene Philips, Ancient Astronaut Society; a tape from Tim Dinsdale on recent work at Loch Ness; John Carlson (Univ Maryland) on archaeoastronomy; Phil Ledger sends a paper on computer analysis of Anglesey leys; a Fortean tape from Dr Berthold Schwarz; 'Paradoxes in UFOlogy' by Dr Roger Wescott; Sherman Larson, President of the Centre for UFO Studies; 'We all like a Good Monster', a paper by Dr Bernard Heuvelmans; 'Who threw that Stone?' a tape on a classic poltergeist case from New Zealand; a paper from FW Holiday; J Gordon Melton on UFO cults; Joe Troiani with tapes from Europe of the Jurgenson/ Raudive 'voices'; Jerome Clark on what's new in Magonia; 'Matthew Manning: Study of a Psychic' a film; Stuart Greenwood (Univ Maryland) on ancient astronaut evidence; Kirlian photography demonstration by Richard Leshuk; a seminar on historical ufology; Peter Byrne of BIGFOOT NEWS; Ray Manners on 'UFO Performance Characteristics'. Phew! Three INFO packed days - and last but not least Richard Crowe's nite-time Chicago Ghost Tour, optional, $5/person, on the Saturday night.

APOLOGIA.

THE NEWS is now fully operational at its new address. The move went without major disaster. Now if only I could find the things I want when I want them. Because of certain minor disruptions, and the roundabout trip to Fortfest I shall not be back in England until mid-Sept. So apologies to all who suffer lapses in communication. Just as we leave, news comes of another possible rise in postage costs, and this together with the other problems that affect the future of THE NEWS will be thunk over and plans set in motion for our next year's development.

THIS ISSUE - we have part one of Paul Devereux's and Andrew York's giant study of Leicestershire phenomena, which takes the greater part of this issue. Perhaps you'll begin to grasp the scope of this work when we say the the next three issues of THE LEY HUNTER will carry their more ley-ish researches under the title of 'The Forgotten Heart of Albion'. And on pages 11-13 you'll find a little present to all of you from Hunt Emerson and myself, to celebrate CF's birthday (6th August). Meanwhile, everybody holler...

"Happy Birthday Charles Fort"

APRIL FUELS?

An idea advanced by Brad Steiger and John Keel is the linking of the MIB and the mysterious inventors that crop up throughout history. Steiger, citing a case from Mackay's Extraordinary Popular Delusions & the Madness of Crowds, suggests they were up to tricks with the alchemists by flashing a powder that turned lead to gold, and vanishing after an apparently successful demonstration. The modern equivalent seems to be a powder which when mixed with water gives a workable petrol-substitute for ic engines. See Ch 14 of Steiger's Mysteries of Time & Space, and NEWS 5/9 & 7/21, for versions.

Now that it's fashionable to be energy-conscious, not only should we expect more such stories - but some may even be investigated. We have a few for the record.

In 1954, Guido Franch was prosecuted by Du Page County, Illinois, alleging that he had sold more than 100% of his formula for MOTA (atom backwards) fuel to speculators. He was aquitted because all the prosecution witnesses - supposedly the ones who were bilked - all testified that the formula really worked. And after this verdict Franch conducted a spontaneous demonstration on the Du Page courthouse lawn by mixing a green powder with water and running a lawnmower on it. For more than 40 years, Franch has wandered all over Illinois, apparently rejecting all offers from large organisations, in favour of personal private demonstrations using old cars, and disclaiming any interest in possible profits. He says he can make 5000 gallons of 105-octane fuel by processing one ton of coal in chemical vats, for around 4 cents a gallon. He admits he's a dummy, and that he got the formula off an elderly Austrian, Alexander Kraft, who invented it for making cheap rocket fuel - Franch claims to have spent all the money donated to him, in refining the process for suitability for cars etc. The article in the Chicago Tribune, 17 April 74 (Cr: Mark A Hall), asks whether it's all a hoax or not, seems to imply that it is not, then fades out. If Franch's powder really works - and its a good hoax that can survive 40 years - then why the conspicuous silence since?

We had a prosecution on the same subject recently in England - two men, Cummings and Burke, charged with conspiracy to defraud a Canadian company, Sunningdale Oil, of £20 million. They were not the inventors, but having seen Mr Thomas Munson demonstrate his 'Mixture' on TV, approached him after, and made a deal to finance him onto the world market. Cummings even put some in his own car to test it and was thoroughly convinced of the Mixture's effectiveness. Were the con-men themselves conned? - seems unlikely. Munson, who lives in Blaenau Festiniog, North Wales, said he picked up part of the formula in Germany in 1945, and can make a petrol substitute costing only 1p/gallon/215 miles. Results of an analysis (New Scientist, 5 June 75) said the Mixture contained "95.3% distilled water, benzene, methanol, iodine crystals, ignitable oil, borax and Fairy washing-up liquid". The remaining 4.7% included Munson's magic powder "Tracanath". It transpired that Cummings and Burke brought the elderly Mr Munson from the sticks to the big city to do a demonstration. That night they locked Mr Munson in his hotel room (it is not clear whether he had agreed to this) because, they said, he tended to wander when under stress. In the night Mr Munson could not sleep and decided he didn't want to go through with it. If he hadn't known about the locked door, it certainly would have helped him make up his mind. He unscrewed the lock, and was on the first bus back to uncomplicated Wales. Imagine the panic of the two hustlers finding their star vanished on the very morning of the big deal. So they concocted a potion out of what they could remember of its ingredients, and of course lacking Munson's magic powder. They told watching scientists that the Mixture should stand for a few hours, but they had a bottle of ready-made stuff to hand (which later analysis showed to be 97% petrol. The buyers became suspicious and blew the whistle. Cummings and Burke were arrested and charged, but later aquitted because of insufficient evidence . And Munson's Magic Mixture, too, has slipped back into peaceful obscurity. Compiled from Daily Mirror, 15 Jan 75 & Daily Telegraph, 30 Jan 75 (Cr: Bob White.)

In October last year, we heard of a French inventor, Jean Chambrin, of Rouen, who had patented a device enabling ic engines to run on tap water and alcohol - though not strictly a 'magic powder' story, it is of interest. After successful demonstrations on French, Dutch and Italian TVs, the French guvmint have asked their Petroleum Research Institute to follow it up. Chambrin has a 'black box' weighing 33lb fitted between a modified solex carburettor and the engine, and according to Chambrin, it cracks the water into hydrogen and oxygen, and burns the former. The protests of the sceptics center around a belief that it would take at least as much energy to crack the water as could be got from burning the hydrogen, so there would be no net gain in energy. The device, however, appears to work despite objections. In one demo, Chambrin started his car on pure alcohol (from a corner chemist) and

Cont on p19...

FINDINGS.

Mrs AM Lysons of Walford, Baschurch, Shrewsbury, Salop wrote to the Daily Mirror (7 Jan 75): " Last October I was calving a cow on the farm where I work. After the calving I washed my hands and lost my wedding ring in the bedding of the calving pen. That bedding was spread on a 100 acre field which was later ploughed - the ring obviously lost forever. None of it. A few days ago, the chap who ploughed this field was cleaning off his plough and tractor. Lo and behold, what did he find stuck on a chunk of mud? Yes, you've got it, my wedding ring. This must be the luckiest ring of all time, as it was completely unmarked."

Fort regarded tales of such findings as conventional compared to most of his data - and admitted forsaking them in his pursuit of the "unconventional repeating". He also regarded them as the province of liars, who being conventionally lazy, could only summon enough imagination to copy something only marginally absurd. Well, we don't have Fort's ready-made excuse of the finite dimensions of a book. Besides, in continuity we feel that just as there are incidents in daily life that are nearly fully understood, so there must be a balance of enigmatic trivia. If we were honest we might admit to collecting such stories just for the hell of it - and move on to tell you some more.

A Letter from Mrs S Judges, Chatham, Kent, to the Sun (6 Feb 75): "After I lost my opal ring, I dreamed that it was in our chicken run. As soon as it was light I ran to the run ((ho ho - EH.)) but could not find my ring. Two days later one of the hens was killed for our dinner, and there in its crop was the lost ring."

Norman Fletcher, a deckhand on a Hartlepool fishing vessel, was helping to pull in the nets, 100 miles out in the North Sea, when a gust of wind blew off his cap. He watched gloomily as the cap sank beneath the waves, and with it his freshly-filled pipe tucked in behind a stud. A month later, he and a mate were again pulling in nets, about 20 miles from where he lost his cap. He could hardly believe his eyes when his mate extracted the lost cap from the net, with pipe in place still. Daily Telegraph, 22 March 75 (CR: John Michell), Weekly News, 12 April 75 (Cr: Nigel Watson.)

Then, for what it's worth - a small shark caught at Nieuport, off the coast of Belgium, was opened by fishmonger Roger Woestyn, who found an English £5note inside, smelly but tenable. ((A rumour that he kept the fish and threw away the money was worth a few guffaws on the Paris stock-exchange - EH.)) Weekly News, 22 Feb 75 (Cr: N Watson.) Now we're shifting to the even more unlikely subject of finding things inside other things. Example - Knoxville, Tennessee housewife, Norma Pointer, who found a 1 cent piece in her breakfast egg. Los Angeles Times (Cr: Mark Hall) & London Evening News (Cr: Steve Moore) both of 20 March 75.

Iris Fowler, 50, died a fortnight after complaining of a sore throat following her consumption of a pie. An open safety-pin was found lodged in her throat. The Coroner told an Inquest at Chelmsford, Essex: "The inference seems to be that the pin was in the pie." But there is also an inference that it contributed to her death in some unmentioned way. For a story of a girl with a fork in her throat, see NEWS 1/15, but she is known to have put it there. Not so culpable was Jane Vaughan, an 82-yr-old great-grandmother, who had a 6" steel knitting needle removed from her back. Doctors said it had been there a year at least, but all the old lady could say was "I don't know how it got there. I didn't feel a thing" Sun, 4 Oct 74.

We're not sure what we are implying here - they could be perfectly explained by conventional if unusual circumstances. But, phenomenologically speaking, we accept that there could very well have been mysterious transportings of things inside other things - and that if such apportations exist, they are undoubtedly hidden amongst similar, but normally explicable cases - (a mimicking process?). We are thinking of the findings of living frogs in the hearts of stones - or Steiger's suggestion that anomalous artifacts found in ancient strata may have been aported there (see his Mysteries of Time & Space.) Good Lord! there could even be a crab in my mug of tea...((Many a nip twixt cup 'n' lip - eh?)) Any way - is this any more preposterous than what is taught kids about flies in amber, fossils in coal-strata, and the unmelted chocolate buttons in Maryland cookies?

Cont on p20...

PORTRAIT OF A FAULT AREA

by Paul Devereux & Andrew York

part one

The material we present here is related to work we have been doing on neglected aspects of Leicestershire lore, in the course of which the fault area to the west of the county became active with accompanying UFO phenomena. The strongest tremor-areas, however, seemed to be along the Trent valley in Staffordshire. As our research was beginning to yield data on the Leics. fault area, as there was current activity, and as fault areas are often associated with anomalous characteristics, we felt that it might prove interesting to undertake a general study of the Leics.-Staffs. fault area. We have approached the landscape in question from several viewpoints, like peeling layers off an onion. We will attempt to indicate that unusual factors can indeed be associated with the area, and we will conclude with some exploratory thoughts that might relate, in a wider sense, to Fortean and Lost Knowledge fields of inquiry.

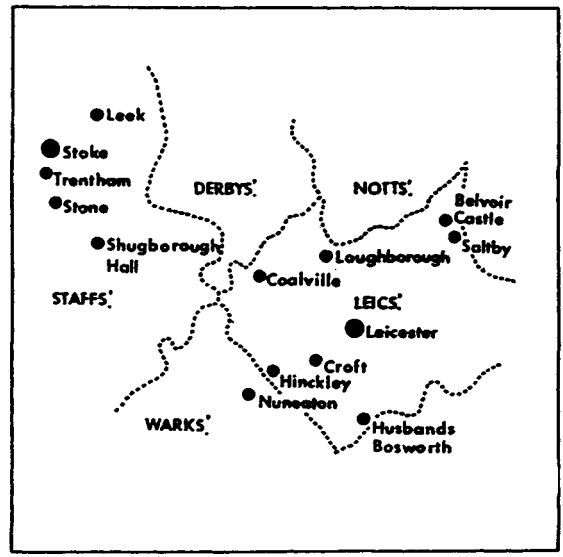
THE LAY OF THE LAND.

The present writers are mainly concerned with Leics., particularly the west of the county; we feel that a study of a wide range of phenomena and features in a small geographical area is a worthwhile exercise at the present time. Because of the fault/UFO activity, however, our attention was drawn to the E. Staffs area as well. So, for the purposes of this particular study, our region of concern is as indicated on the smaller scale sketch map. The centre of this area is roughly 80 miles NW of the centre of Fort's "London Triangle". As much of our material is concentrated in the west of Leics., we also present a larger scale sketch map of that region.

The two "ends" of the area are dominated by Stoke-on-Trent and Leicester, about 50 miles apart. A thin "wedge" of Derbyshire separates the borders of Staffs. and Leics., except for one mile-long section. Near this spot is a place called Honey Hill, close to where the counties of Warwickshire, Staffs. and Leics. meet.

The region is approximately the geographical heart of England. It is industrial, wealthy and materialistic. Beneath this 20th-Century facade, however, there lies a good deal of poetic, green countryside of exceptional English beauty.

Charnwood Forest lies within the boundaries of Leics., to the NW of the county. It is not a forest of trees, and probably never was a forest in any real sense (1). It was obliquely referred to in Domesday as a "waste". It is a remarkable area. It is high relative to its

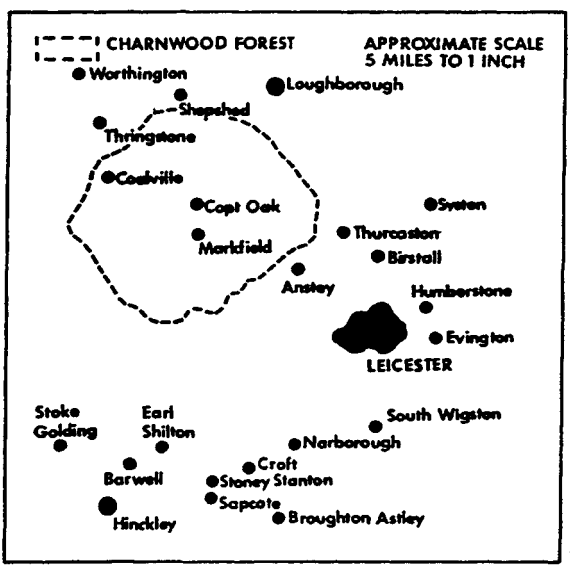


surrounding pastoral landscape. Up on the Forest one senses a weird, primeval atmosphere: Charnwood is the overt result of ancient volcanic action. Its landscape is punctuated by sudden, odd outcrops of rock - "the strange spectacle of the strata tilted on end"(1). Everywhere are ancient groupings of trees, often on a tump or hiding a rock outcrop, and often surrounded by old drystone walls.

Charnwood acts like a great obstacle to a major fault system that can be traced from Kent up to the Pennines, and, it is thought by some, may carry on north to Scotland. A major fault within this system occurs actually at Charnwood and is known as the Thringstone Fault. All around the Forest is complex faulting, with many minor fault lines still to be precisely located. Most of Leics., and, indeed, the Midlands plain as a whole, is to some degree affected by this fault complex. To the NW of Charnwood the faulting "goes underground" to some extent, only to reappear in the Trent valley in the vicinity of Stoke. It is believed that part of the fault system goes on into Wales but it has not been traced with any certainty.

THE KEY OF LLYR.

King Lear, son of the magical monarch Bladud, is said to have built Leicester - "Leircestre". Lear is supposed to have been buried in a vault under the River Soar in Leicester. This vault had originally been built in honour of the Roman god Janus. (A temple, thought to be dedicated to Janus, has been discovered in the remains of the Roman forum in Leicester.) Robert Graves (6) links Lear with Janus, and both with the pre-Roman British god Llyr. Janus was two-headed, facing both ways between the Old and New year. Graves demonstrates the link between Llyr and the oak ("Duir" being the oak's Beth-Luis-Nion name). The oak is associated with the thunderbolt and strong connections can be made between Llyr and the thunder-gods - Thor, Zeus and Jupiter. "Duir" has a root meaning "door" in many languages and, of course, oak is the traditional timber for a door. St. John seems to be the Christianisation of Llyr, and St. John's day is June 24th, the mid-point of the Oak Month (June 10th-July 7th). On this day was the sacrifical burning alive of the oak-god (the fuel of the midsummer fires is by tradition oak). A 7-day wake followed this "sacrifice". The second half of the Celtic year began in July. June 24th is the close of the midsummer solstitial period, and happens to be one of the 5 dates in the year that John Keel (8) regards as of major UFO/occult importance.



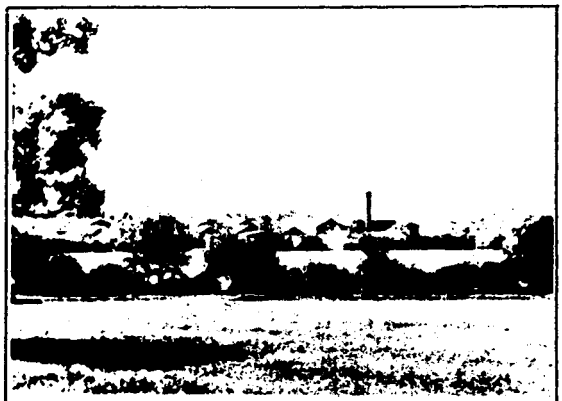
So Llyr, "king and god", is to be associated with the Druidic oak-cult (if not even earlier activities); with the symbol of the door; with midsummer; with thunderbolts and with the county of Leics. As we have noted, it is in this Land of Llyr that Charnwood Forest is located.

If this door-keeping oak-god, Llyr, was deposed by Christianity and doomed to "languish forgotten in the castle of Arianrhod"(6). we believe he left his key behind for those who would seek it. This "key" is to be found, we think, in the form of Croft Hill, Leics.

Croft Hill stands close by the Roman Fosse Way, 6 miles SW of Leicester and 5 miles NE of Hinckley. It is also 5 miles from High Cross where the Roman Watling Street crosses the Fosse Way. It is a modest eminence of a few hundred feet, with even slopes a grove-like tree grouping on its west flank. Its situation however, is such that its summit, a curiously cracked slab of rock, commands dramatically extensive views over the full circle of the horizon. There are earthworks around the hill, including a ditch and what may be a tumulus. In one spot two curiously stunted trees display remarkable spiral contortions of their trunks, which might indicate geodetic influence (12). The cracks and discolouration of the summit rock might, we speculate, be due to lightning. The hill has long been regarded as an important spot (2) and has had, like Glastonbury Tor, its "human sacrifice", when 44 so-called thieves were tortured and hanged there in

1124.

The ugly village of Croft, at the foot of the hill, has a few features of interest. Its church is dedicated to the serpent-slaying St. Michael; it has a superb markstone by its main street (one of two, the other stone has been destroyed), and a road called "Arbor Road". "Arbor" has the old meaning of "the central axis about which a wheel turns, the central support of any machine" (5).



A view of Croft Hill from the south-east.

The central support of any machine? In 1879, T.L.Walker (13) developed a theory that Croft Hill was the British Mesomphalos (Central sacred place; navel of the earth). He pointed out that the Gallic Mesomphalos, said to have been adopted from a British structure, was in the midst of a plain, surrounded by a wall and a ditch, and was on the banks of the Loire. Walker linked the name of the Soar with Leire, which can be traced back to "Legra" meaning "Loire". Croft Hill stands by the River Soar, is earthworked, is situated on a plain and only 4 miles away is a village called Leire. In addition, the hill stands approximately at the centre of England, and the claimants to the title "Centre of England" (eg. Leicester Clock Tower; High Cross; Meriden; Higham-on-the-Hill) fall within its general vicinity. No one agrees as to where the actual Mesomphalos was (Lichfield, 35 miles from Croft, has been put forward by some), but we feel that Walker's theory is soundly based. Although his evidence is circumstantial, to dismiss it one would have to seek refuge in coincidence, which we are not prepared to do.

It is at least symbolic that at this interesting point in Britain's social and economic history, the possible Mesomphalos is threatened with destruction by a quarry company that has not only eaten away the land on the east side of the hill, but actually owns the hill as well! Horrors.

We noted an unusual feature on Croft Hill consisting of a ledge protruding from the lower slopes of the hill, resting on a slightly sloping "wall". A prehistorian in Leicester, studying our photographs, decided it was not an archaeological feature and referred it to his geological colleagues. They considered it to be "a natural curiosity" and promised us a report on it. Croft Hill is an apt location for such a curiosity. Through the mediation of NEWS-reader Graham Crowley we have, in fact, been able to secure our own report (from an authoritative source) on the feature. This report, while confirming the geological formation of the ledge and "wall", also gives us an insight into the nature of the hill and its vicinity that should be kept in mind by the reader while studying the totality of the data we present relating to the region.

The material comprising the feature is very weathered and its felspars are decomposing towards clay minerals. The rock is medium-grained volcanic, intrusive or possibly hyperbyssal. It contains no visible quartz or mica and could therefore belong to the basic group of igneous rock, but as the large-grain, acid, high quartz-content granite is also present on the hill, the rock is probably of the intermediate group - probably syenite (mined by the adjacent quarry company!). Silicon is present. Rock samples from the feature were tested for flourescence with no striking results. The undercutting of the ledge is probably due to preferential weathering. The age of the rock is pre-Cambrian which has been faulted and thrusted. The presence of the ledge could be due to a very large block moving in relation to another. Our source has consulted aeromagnetic maps of the region, but we will have to follow the matter up with him to pinpoint Croft Hill in relation to these maps. However, our source does say: "It is evident that there are quite a few magnetic anomalies around Leicester." This is an important consideration.

It is our experience in compiling data on the area that Croft Hill seems to exercise some enigmatic influence, or attraction, on certain events taking place in the local sky and landscape. We will make occasional references to Croft Hill throughout the text to reinforce this observation.

We believe, with a few others, that in a remote time, long before the historical period, there was a cosmology that defined and supported a geopsychic science. We think that this early understanding,

more complete than our current mode of thought, was able to contemplate the realisation that physical and psychic reality were one whole package, and would not have differentiated between these facets of existence. It is our feeling that Croft Hill is a sacred hill, a geo-psychic structure left over from antiquity, acting as a sort of multi-dimensional reference point for some of the aerial, terrestrial and psychic events in its vicinity - a beacon in psycho-physical reality. More than that, if Croft Hill is Britain's Mesomphalos, then it may perform a vital function (the arbor) regarding the whole of sacred engineering in the UK.

THE METEOROLOGICAL LANDSCAPE.

Our records for this section begin on June 16th, 1645, when there was a "strange" storm of hail in and around Loughborough. Gigantic hailstones "did much hurt" in the neighbourhood. In the same year (we have not yet traced the month) the water in Garendon Pool, a mile from Loughborough, turned red "like blood" for 4 days. People came from far and wide to view the phenomenon. Cattle refused to drink the water but fish were unhurt. There used to be an abbey at Garendon. In 1659 Sir George Booth wrote of "The Strange and dreadful Apparition of wonderful Meteors in the Air, at Markfield in Leics., on Thursday September 7th, 1659." Sir George describes how "extraordinary flashes of lightning" broke from angry clouds creating "terrible" claps of thunder. This continued for an hour. There was no rain but "a most black and dreadful storm of hail, and instead of hailstones there fell rattling down from the air halberts, swords and daggers; which...were found to be of the same nature...as were the hailstones; and after a little while both the sight, and the fright the sight brought with it, did melt away at once." The folk of Markfield and its neighbourhood were not spared for long, however. They heard crackles and bangs as if muskets "in repeated volleys, did discharge their cholerick errands." There were many "prodigious eruptions of fire, which with great violence did fly in the air, and, running lower, did tear in pieces many strong houses and laid great trees on their backs, which in an instant were plucked up by the roots." A lime kiln was destroyed in this part of the storm after which "this part of the fiery tempest, which came so low, was seen by all to take its course up the hill, where it vanished away, and there was heard no more noise of it."(10). We do not know which hill this was, but there is a Snake Hill next to Markfield, which might indicate ophiolatric references. The 1650s were generally an active time. There was a fierce tempest of wind and thunder in Leicester in 1652, January 16th, which "uncovered 411 baies of houses, and overturned many." In 1658 there was said to have been a remarkable storm that was felt all over Europe. In that year a Leics. church was demolished by a storm. Throsby said of the 1650s that "it is somewhat singular to remark what a number of fires there happened in the county about this time."(11). He records them at, amongst other places, Burton Overy, Cropston, Lutterworth, Hinckley and Desford - all are within 10 miles of Croft Hill, as indeed Markfield is. (The name Markfield relates to an inscribed standing stone that once existed in the centre of a nearby field.) Sir George Booth also tells us: "We have heard and seen of late of many forms of hailstones ...Sometimes they have been taken up and observed for the most part to be flat; as in that dreadful storm of hail; presently after that it rained fire from Heaven: which was beheld by many travellers coming late to London, not far from Epping, about 3 years since..." This dates the event as approximately 1656. On June 2nd 1660, a freak whirlwind was severely felt in Worthington and adjacent villages. It started suddenly, tore a house asunder, ripped apart Spring Wood, blew down chimneys and roofing, "and hurried a man into an orchard". A huge log of wood, no one ever knew from where, smashed against a solitary house. A contemporary wrote: "This whirlwind ran 3 miles in length and the effects of it were seen above 20 yards in breadth. Some say that flames of fire were seen in it."

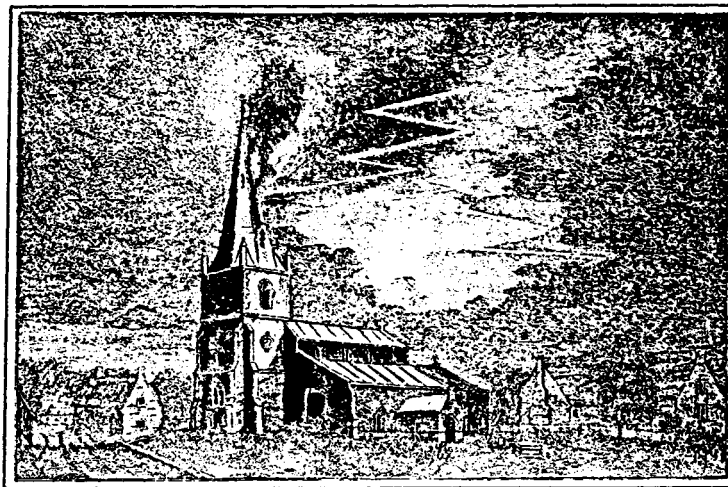
Fort refers to a 1661 earthquake in the Hereford/Worcester area which was accompanied by "monstrous flaming things" in the sky(4).

The 18th century was literally a phenomenal century, judging by our records. In November 1703 there was what was considered to be the worst storm ever recorded or remembered. Daniel Defoe was an eyewitness of the storm, which seems to have affected most of England. "The air was full of meteors and vaporous fires," Defoe said. Many English towns were devastated and large numbers of mansions were blown down. Hundreds of thousands of trees up and down the country were uprooted. Fleets were cast away at sea. The Eddystone lighthouse was destroyed and its designer killed. There were record high tides in the Severn and Thames. The years 1715-1723 were remarkable ones in Leics., according to the records of a vicar in Shepshed, on Charnwood. He tells us of "unusual lights" that inhab-

itants of Charnwood Forest saw "in the north part of the heavens, sometimes inclining to the east, but oftener to the west." The lights usually took the form of "spiral streams or columns" that ascended "up to the very zenith". These phenomena sometimes displayed "strong vibrations or dartings". The observers of these aerial sights were at first frightened, but "the frequency of them at length made them less frightful". The vicar says that the experts of the day could not satisfactorily explain away "such prodigious quantity of streams or pillars of light as frequently appeared". The date the first light was seen is given as March 6th, 1715. It appeared a little above the horizon and looked like "a great house on fire at a distance". These lights seem to have appeared at all seasons during their 9-year activity (10). Throsby noted that a meteor was seen over Leicester in 1718. It looked like a ball of fire and seemed to descend to the ground. In the NE of Leics., a little outside our immediate region of concern, is Belvoir Castle. This is an imposing place, built on a mound. Nichols quoted a Mr. Peck who remarked on the number of low mists in the area; so thick were they that "one cannot find one's way home at midday". Mr. Peck also records "a strange appearance" of a herd of deer in the air "all fairly represented in the mist, their shadows running and moving all correspondent with the motions of real deer". Many people had seen this phenomenon and one man claimed he had seen it more than once. Mr. Peck noted these matters in the 1730s. The fellow also referred to "a certain meteor" that was "occasionally observed" at Saltby, not far from Belvoir. Saltby is situated near an earthwork known as "King Lud's Rents" (Lud is another term for Llyr). Peck records the phenomenon in verse:

"Oft travellers o'er that wide plain by night,
Perceive a meteor on themselves and horses light,
Whose lambent pale flame all about them sticks,
And frights them strangely with its harmless tricks
So many fancies it will sometimes shew,
That even no phosphorus can its tricks outdo."

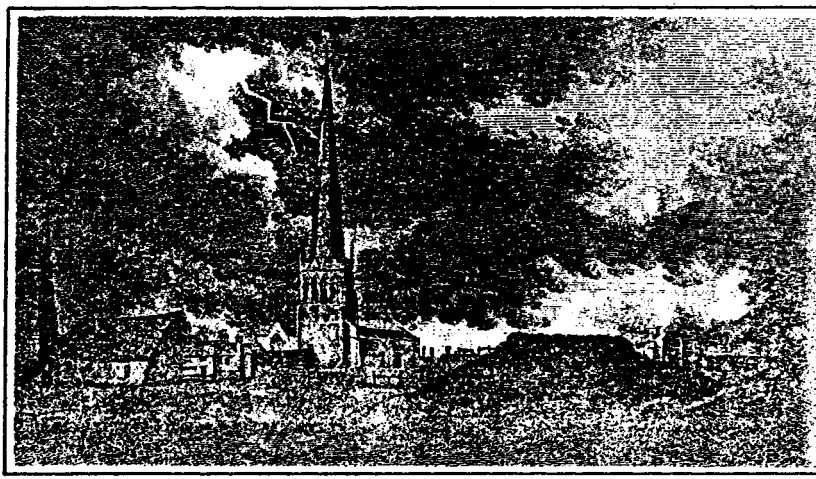
Our Shepshed vicar recalls that on July 18th, 1727, there was an earthquake. The wind suddenly became calm before the quake, but ten minutes afterwards there blew a "pretty fresh gale" for 15 minutes; then it ceased. On July 31st, 1735, there was a violent electrical storm over Loughborough. It rained for 6 hours causing "knee-deep" torrents of water to course through the streets of the town. On June 17th, 1747, again at Loughborough, there was a freak storm of hail and thunder. Some of the hailstones measured more than 2½" across. In 1755 the church at Husbands Bosworth, about 11 miles SE of Croft was damaged by a fierce storm. Stones in the church walls and pavements were displaced by lightning, the bells were displaced and the spire had a chasm 12 yds long rent in it. Globes of fire were seen in the air and lightning in a "terrible manner ran along the streets". Clouds of smoke with a sulphurous smell issued from the aperture of the spire. Throsby notes than on June 14th of the following year, between the hours of 8 and 10, there was "a remarkable heavy shower of rain, attended with incessant claps of thunder, and very alarming lightning". During this storm a ball of fire was seen "which divided into particles and vanished without



HUSBANDS BOSWORTH.

Lightning striking the spire of the church at Husbands Bosworth, in 1755. An engraving dated 1789 in Nichols's History and Antiquities of Leicestershire.

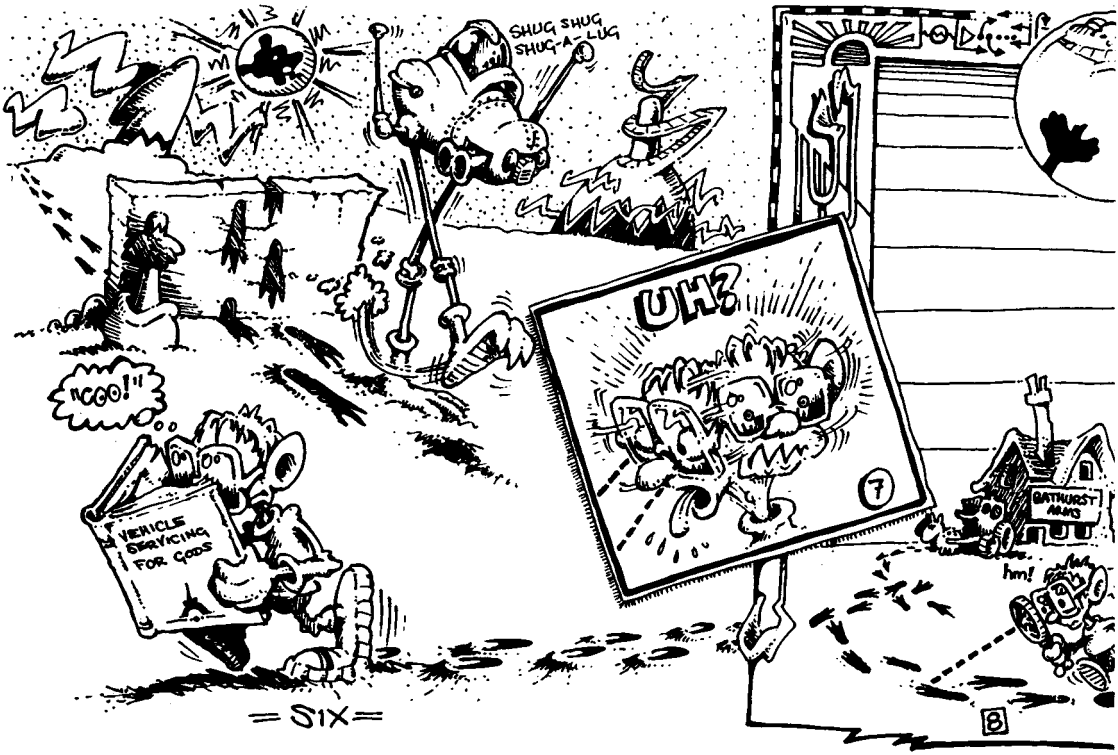
doing any damage". The steeple of the ancient church of St. Mary de Castro, in Leicester, was struck 3 times by lightning in 1763; twice in one month. The church stands in close proximity to other church spires. 6 years previously, the spire had been damaged by a "remarkable tempest". An inhabitant of Hinckley, 5 miles SW from Croft Hill, observed a fiery meteor in October 1766. It travelled NW to SE, was elliptical, emitted sparks, and made a hissing noise. It appeared after a violent storm of wind and rain. In December 1766, also over Hinckley, "there suddenly appeared a large fiery ball...brisk but unequal in motion" and this also gave off sparks. In October 1769 there was "a remarkable aurora borealis" in the Hinckley skies. A Mr. Robinson stated that "these illuminations began...as soon as the evening twilight would permit, their first appearance being near the horizon. They seemed to proceed from dusky light clouds, as they frequently do, streaming upwards towards the zenith; those from the Westward, after some time, began to be tinged with red, and continued to alternately exhibit great varieties of that colour, which succeeded each other by quick successions, being sometimes of a wan light red, then approaching...a full blood-colour...The illuminations from the other quarters of the heavens had nearly their usual appearance, except from the North East, which were of a remarkable pale bright silver colour for a considerable time; at near seven o'clock they likewise began to be a little tinged with red...it being now half past seven o'clock and the different streams of light arising from most parts of the horizon seemed to be in full strength, directing themselves towards the zenith where they formed a corona, or point, which appeared and disappeared frequently, and was sometimes partial or broken. This point near the zenith was frequently surrounded by a kind of radii, the points of which at this time were tinged with a light red colour: the strongest appearance was from seven to eight o'clock. It was observable that the corona...was not exactly in the zenith: it appeared and disappeared frequently; but always formed itself a few degrees towards the South; nor was it exactly in the meridian, but inclined a little towards the East." (10). In June 1772 a terrible electrical storm did much damage in Leics. In July 1783 "there was a great storm of thunder and lightning". In Shepshed a man was killed when a bolt of lightning entered his house via the chimney. Another house in Shepshed was struck in the same storm and again the lightning entered by the chimney and cut off one corner of an almanack "with as much regularity as if done by a sharp instrument". The head of an oak tree about a mile from Shepshed was torn from the trunk and thrown a considerable distance. Also in this storm a horse was killed on Charnwood "and near the body were found round holes made deep in the ground by the lightning; but there were no wounds to be seen on the horse. In the said forest several sheep were killed; and, what was very surprising, a rock...was rent and several stones thrown therefrom" (10). A month later, Throsby notes that a ball of fire "with a long train" was seen passing over Leicester in a SW direction. Some people felt the shock of an earthquake too. The spire of Shepshed church was struck in a storm of 1785. On May 29th (Royal Oak Day), 1788, a hailstorm accompanied by thunder and lightning assailed Loughborough and its district. Along with the storm there came a

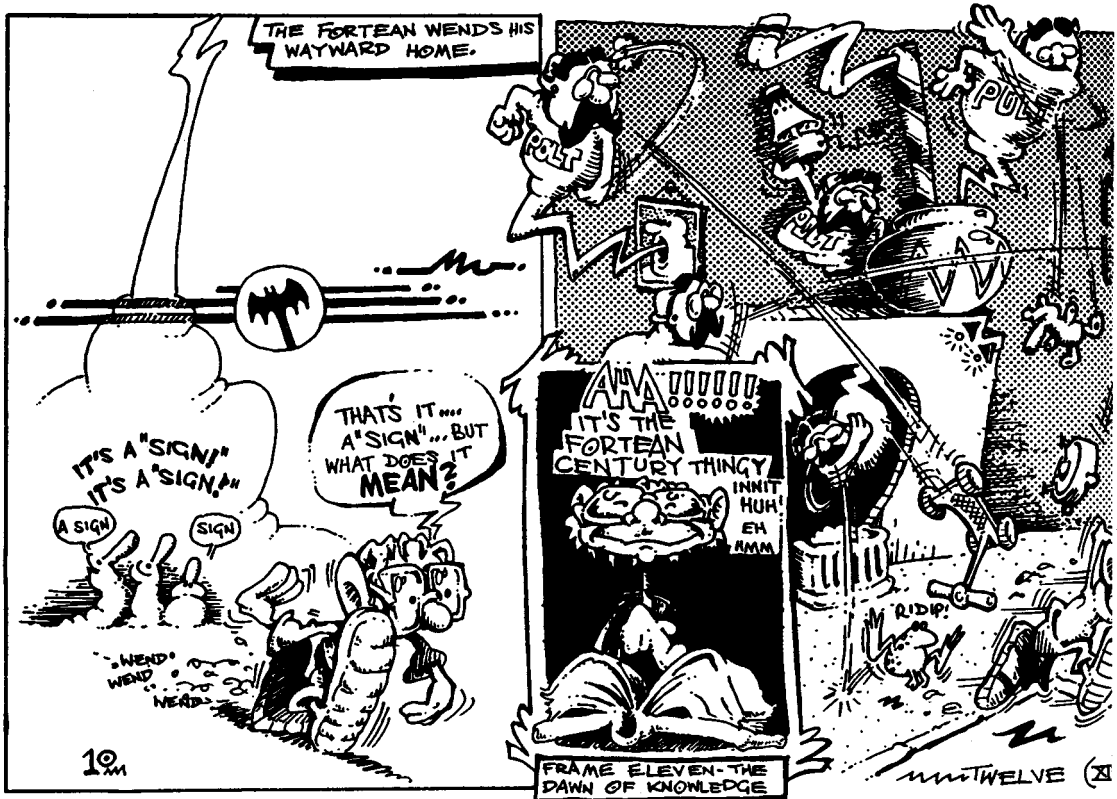


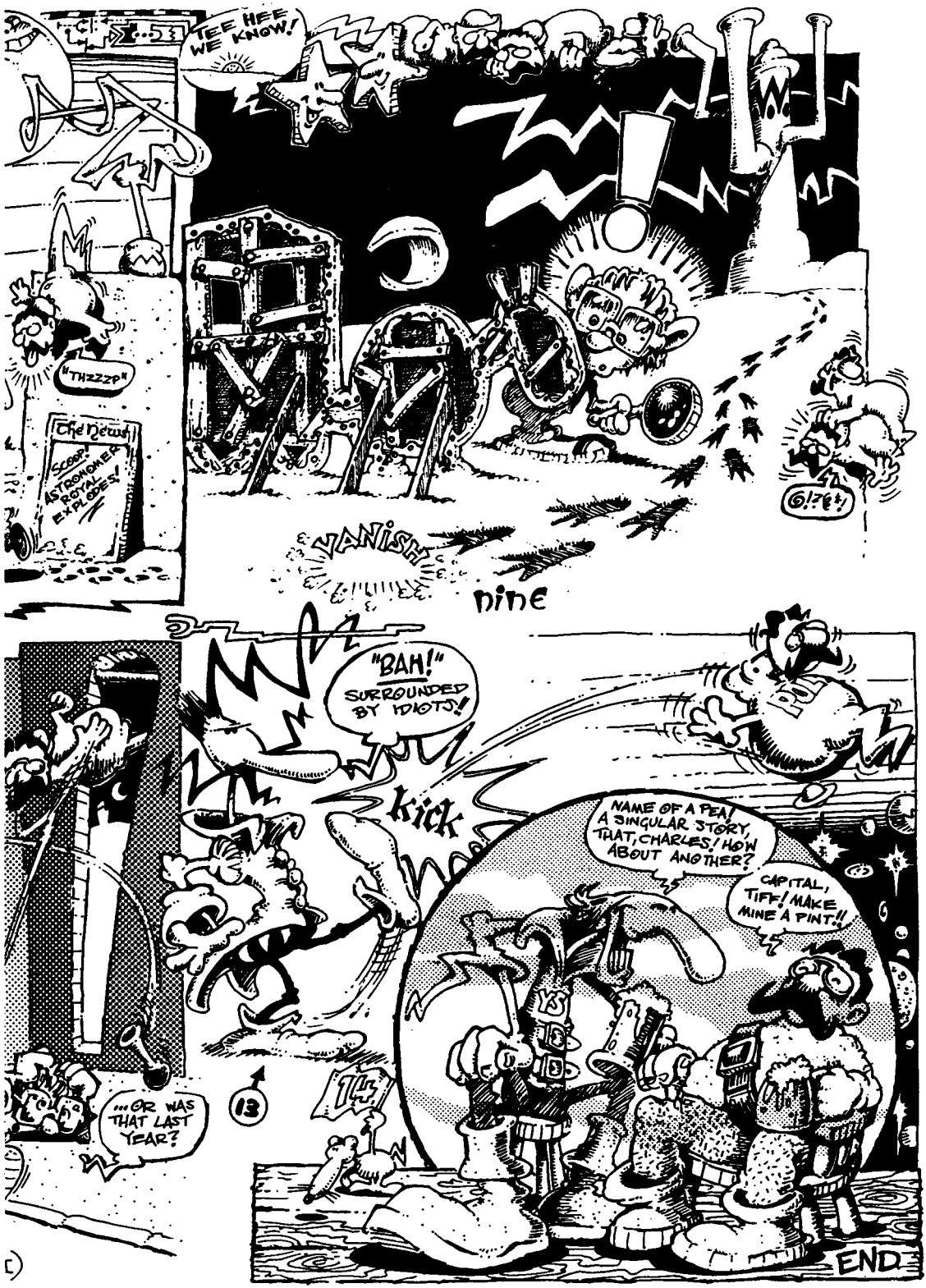
Lightning striking the steeple of St Mary de Castro, Leicester, in 1763. An engraving dated 1794 in Nichols's History and Antiquities of Leicestershire, showing the old castle mound on the right.

Cont on p14///

FORTEAN FUNNIES
WRITTEN BY BOB RICKARD AND DRAWN BY HUNT EMERSON
....AND WHAT OF MELANICUS, WHO LORDS STRANGE REALMS • BETWEEN AND BEYOND OUR FAMILIAR DIMENSIONS? WHAT OF THAT BUSY PRINCE OF DARK BODIES AND DARKER JESTS?
EARTH
HOOPS
SCREEN
WIGGLE
"THE SUN"
MELANICUS
LAMP
"THAT SHOULD BUCKLE A FEW EYEPIECES!"
ALL EXCEPT YOU KNOW WHO IN THAT FRAME DOWN THERE. HMM—WE'LL JUST HAVE TO REMIND OUR AMIABLE AMNESIAC, SO HE CAN JOIN THE JOYFUL JUNKET, EH!
BET HE WON'T REMEMBER!
YOU'RE ON
POLT
VOYAGE TO SEE WHAT'S ON THE BOTTOM
FORT for THOOD
MYSTERIES
SIMPLY INCREDIBLE
OLD INTERNAL COMBUSTION
FIVE
four


SHUG SHUG SHUG-A-LUG
"OOO!"
VEHICLE SERVICING FOR GODS
UH?
7
BATHURST MMS
hm!
8
=SIX=

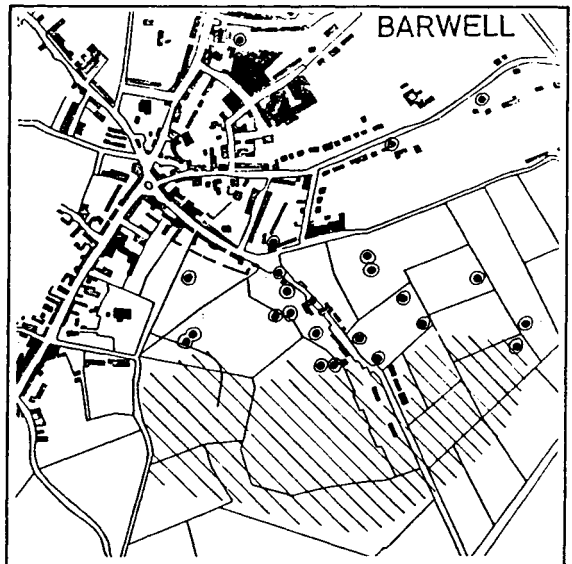

THE FORTEAN WENDS HIS WAYWARD HOME.
POLT
PUT
IT'S A "SIGN!" IT'S A "SIGN!"
A SIGN
SIGN
THAT'S IT... A "SIGN"... BUT WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
WEND WEND WEND
10
AHA!!!!!!! IT'S THE FORTEAN CENTURY THINGY
INNIT
HUH
EH
HMM
RIDIP!
FRAME ELEVEN-THE DAWN OF KNOWLEDGE
TWELVE (XI


TEE HEE WE KNOW!
"THZZZP"
The News
SCOOP! ASTRONOMER ROYAL EXPLODES!
VANISH
nine
"BAH!" SURROUNDED BY IDIOTS!
kick
...OR WAS THAT LAST YEAR?
13
NAME OF A PEA! A SINGULAR STORY, THAT, CHARLES! HOW ABOUT ANOTHER?
CAPITAL, TIFF! MAKE MINE A PINT!!
END

great wind that broke windows facing it and stripped trees of bark and foliage - the bruising to some trees was perceptible years afterwards. A new spire was erected on Hinckley church in this year as the old one had "been much injured by time and lightning".

In 1801 there came on Hinckley "a sudden and tremendous storm" that destroyed a windmill. In 1804 the steeple at Sapcote (2½ miles from Croft) was struck by lightning. In 1850 the spire of St. John the Baptist at Kings Newton was struck. Pevsner considers the church to be "one of the most remarkable in England" from an architectural viewpoint. The spire of the church of St. Michael at Brooksby was shattered by lightning in 1877. Fort notes that a luminous object was seen in the sky to the east of Fair Oaks, Staffs, in 1852. Fort also records that there was a peculiar aurora of "rapid flashes" over Loughborough in August, 1892 (4).

There has been a major event in W Leics. this century. On Christmas Eve, 1965, there was a mighty rock-fall known as the Barwell Meteorite (2), which is the largest so far recorded in the UK. The event was preceded by curious hissing sounds issuing from the earth, and accompanied by a number of fireballs seen over surrounding counties. Loud acoustic phenomena also accompanied the fall and affected hundreds of square miles, causing glass objects to break in certain areas. December 24th is another of Keel's 5 key UFO/occult days of the year. Barwell is 4 miles from Croft Hill. In the spring of 1971 a meteorite was reported to have landed at Arley, near Nuneaton. In true Fortean manner, some spectators claimed to have seen it land at 7 o'clock in the morning, while others insisted it came down at night! (A multiple event?) Arley is 10 miles from Barwell, 14 miles from Croft Hill. Earlier that year, in February, a "bright green" object was seen to fall to earth just SW of Leicester; and on another occasion a "fiery object" was seen to "suddenly disappear" over Astley, Nuneaton. In December 1971 a bright white light travelling west to east was seen in the skies over N Leics. The light was soundless and seen to disintegrate. (1971 was an active year UFOlogically in Leics., but, as we shall argue in our "THOR FACTOR" essay, we feel it would be a mistake to class all "fireballs" as UFOs.) Back to atmospheric electricity: a Charnwood countryman tells us that an old wood, Lea Wood, on the Forest seemed to attract particularly fierce electrical storms, and folk kept well clear of the place in thundery weather. Apparently, the old trees have now been removed



Position of meteoric fragments recovered from Barwell. Ringed dots indicate single, large fragments; hatching indicates many small fragments. Diagram from 'The Barwell Meteorite' by McKellar, Meadows & Sylvester-Bradley. Trans. Leister Literary & Philosophical Society 1965/6.

and the place no longer possesses its peculiar attraction for storms. In April 1968 a freak tornado travelled 3 miles out of Coventry to the hamlet of Barnacle, causing much destruction. It so happens that the Coventry-Barnacle direction is in line with Croft Hill, 10 miles away to the NE.

THE UFOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE.

When we began our study of Leics. we decided that before considering individual UFO sightings we would assess any general trends related to UFO reports in the county. We took the UFO records of the main local newspaper, the "Leicester Mercury", as a sample. The records covered a period from 1953-1974. It became clear that UFOs were sighted predominantly over the west half of the county - the area most affected by the fault complex. This trend could perhaps be accounted for by the greater population in this part of the county, though we think it is debatable. We had already been alerted to the possible significance of Croft Hill, so, as a test, we drew 2 circles on the map centred on the hill, one at 10 miles and the other at 5. Well over 50% of the sightings fell within the 10-mile boundary and, even more significantly, almost 25% fell within the 5-mile boundary. Even though the "Mercury" records certainly represent a mere fraction of UFO activity in the county, and though

the "boundaries" we drew were arbitrary, the "homing-in" of sightings to the Croft area is so strong it is a trend that cannot be ignored.

Another intriguing trend we noted was the lack of UFO sightings in June. So far we have only one sighting recorded as a UFO for the month of June and, as will be seen, even that falls more into a "fireball" category. We wonder if the June "death" of the oak-god might be a mythological recollection of some principle we cannot now grasp. June seems to be quite an active time for natural phenomena such as storms and tremors.

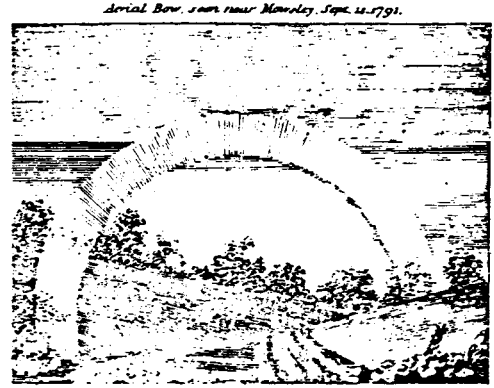
We have a great many UFO sightings on our files and we can do no more than glance at a few examples through the last few decades. Pauline Berger, writing to the "Flying Saucer Review"(3), records an experience she had in the late 1920s near Anstey, Leics., when she was a child. While her father stretched out in a field one sunny afternoon, she read a book. Suddenly looking up, she saw an odd-shaped figure, about 5 feet high, which she at first thought to be a scarecrow. It was black with a large head but no face. Its arms were long and dangling. She looked down at her book but sensed that the thing was looking at her. Glancing up again, she saw what she took to be a "hut" alongside the figure. She woke her father in a panic but the figure and "hut" had disappeared. This "hut" had looked like a large globe on legs, and Mrs. Berger wrote to FSR because an account of a similar figure and sphere sighting was pointed out to her in an earlier issue of the magazine. In December 1954 a Leicester citizen saw a bright strip of light to the SSE. It moved to the West where it appeared like a sickle In August 1958 there were reports of a large aerial object, rounded on top and flat underneath, travelling at "great speed" in the Coventry direction from Hinckley. In August 1959 a Birstall woman saw "a huge double star" moving slowly through the sky. In June 1961 a motorist just north of Leicester saw a coloured ball of flame plummet earthwards. He said it was so bright that it appeared like "a second sun". In November 1965 an object shaped like an "old-fashioned airship" was seen hovering over Humberstone. In September 1966 Leicester citizens reported 3 strange objects in the sky. Two drifted away, but one, "electric blue and round", remained hovering for 20 minutes. In this same month 2 bright objects were seen over Barlestone, Leics., heading toward Leicester. They were making a humming noise. 1966 was, generally, a UFO-active period in the area. Again in September 1966, "a blue spinning ball" emitting a "strange noise", was seen hovering in the sky over S. Wigston, a village just south of Leicester (and only 5 miles from Croft) where many UFO sightings are reported. On July 3rd 1967, a large silver object was seen approaching Markfield from the Leicester direction. On the 5th July a Leicester man saw a bright object in the sky. "It seemed to line up with a star" he said, "and remained still for a full minute. It came from the Coalville direction and disappeared toward the city centre." This was the fifth object in 4 days reported in the area. In the same month a "cigar-shaped object" was seen over Humberstone. (One of the present writers is particularly interested in the Humberstone sightings because when he was a child living near Thurmaston - a couple of miles from Humberstone - he saw a huge, black, ribbed dirigible in the sky towards the Humberstone direction. While calling someone's attention to it, it disappeared. This must have been in the early 1950s.) Still in July 1967, a Loughborough man heard a "deep noise" and saw a bright light in the sky travelling from Leicester "swerving" and changing colour. Apparently the man had been woken up two months earlier by a noise similar to that emitted by the UFO. A UFO was reported, also in the same July, "travelling in a straight line from Leicester to Markfield". In September 1967 a multiple UFO event was witnessed by spectators standing on Croft Hill. Some of the lights moved slowly around the hill. On October 26th 1967, "T-shaped" and "oblong" UFOs were reported from SW Leicester, and a "flickering kite-shaped object" was seen over Earl Shilton (1½ miles from Barwell; 3 miles from Croft). The object moved off to the west. In November 1967, "a bright fiery ball with 2 distinct black crosses on it" was seen over Leicester during the afternoon. The whole of 1967 was incredibly UFO-active in Leics., as it was throughout the country. An ex-RAF man saw a number of green spheres in a "triangular formation" over Leicester in April 1968. In May of that year a "four-pronged object" was seen over Wigston for half an hour. A silver, stationary aerial object was reported by numerous witnesses in Wigston in August 1968. A "pure white light" was seen travelling north until disappearing "between Hinckley and Earl Shilton" in December 1968. In the same month, a UFO over W Leicester was described as a "very bright light, shrouded in cloud, like a second moon". Hinckley residents reported a similar object that same evening. A UFO was reported over W Leicester in August 1969. The strange light "moved to and fro in a set pattern"

for about half an hour. In October 1969 the "Mercury" reported that several Leicester residents had been seeing a UFO hovering over the city every night for several weeks. In March 1970, witnesses reported a white object "like a ball" travelling across the Leicester sky. It was producing a high-pitched noise "like a factory siren". The noise lasted for 5 minutes and a great many people reported hearing it. (This is definitely a scene from the Cosmic Joke Show - though only someone who knows the Leicester population's preoccupation with affluence can savour the full humour of the event!) One May night in 1971, a woman motorist was "buzzed" by a brilliant object "abo-out the size of a double-decker bus" in the vicinity of Croft Hill. The object lit up the countryside and affected electrical equipment in the woman's car. In August 1971 a light described as "red and yellow with a dark rim" was seen circling the SW part of Leicester on 5 successive nights. Another humming UFO was observed south of Leicester in September 1971. There was an upsurge of UFO reports all around the Charnwood/Leicester area in the Autumn of 1971. Windows began breaking inexplicably throughout Leicester. Night after night formations of lights were seen crossing the sky. UFOs emitting trails of sparks were seen; glowing orange discs surrounded by white vapour also made an appearance.

And so the reports go on. The small selection of sightings above all took place within 10 miles of Croft Hill.

A few that caught our eye further afield from the Croft area include a mysterious light "weaving about" viewed from Husband's Bosworth, in August 1971; a glow and "crackling sound" reported in the same month in a field near Syston - the Fire Brigade found nothing when they arrived on the scene; a disc of "enormous size" hovering over Billesdon, in the east of Leics., for 20 minutes, one afternoon in September 1971, and "green flames" seen in the Vale of Belvoir in January 1974. An intriguing case took place just north of the Leics. border, in Clifton, near Nottingham: in July 1967 a silver disc was seen to descend from the sky and police had to be called out to control a crowd of about a hundred people in an "alien landing scare".

A wave of UFO sightings occurred in Leics in January/February 1975 and, as far as we can gather, elsewhere in the country too. On January 5th a woman saw a stationary light "too big and far too bright' for a star, over the outskirts of Leicester. It slowly sank down to tree-top height where she lost sight of it. On the evening of January 24th 1975 one of the present writers saw red and white lights performing in the sky to the west of Leicester. Other people standing in the street at the time also saw the lights. Suddenly the lights, which seemed to be flickering on an object, gave off 2 bright green flashes and then moved out of sight at a rapid pace. A couple of days later a glowing orange UFO was sighted over Leicester. The local UFO study group, LAPRO (9), have a photograph taken by a Leicester resident of one of the several UFOs sighted during the January/February period. Two separate reports from Narborough described 2 bright objects in the western sky, on February 17th. Some Leicester witnesses



The following article was communicated by the late incomparable draughtsman Mr. Schnebbelie:

"In my last excursion into Leicestershire, I was surprized with a sight of (to me a very) singular phænomenon. I was going from Mowsley to Knaptoft, on Wednesday morning, the 14th of September, 1791. There was a very thick fog on the ground, which seemed at Mowsley to be dispersing by the Sun, which rose with great warmth; but, when I got on some high ground about a mile from Mowsley, the fog seemed to increase, and I could see but a very short distance from me, though the Sun was at my back. I was suddenly struck with a most beautiful white arch in the atmosphere, similar to a rainbow, but only of one colour, and that so bright as to dazzle the sight. It lasted only a few seconds, and then disappeared. Having proceeded about a quarter of a mile farther, the ground still rising, another arch appeared, but considerably larger, and more brilliant. This did not disappear so suddenly as the first, but seemed to vanish with the fog. The distance of time between the appearance of the two arches was about twenty minutes, and happened about a quarter before seven in the morning. I have sent you a sketch of the first arch.

From Nichols's History and Antiquities of Leicestershire. ((Alas the incomparable draughtsmanship of Mr Schnebbelie never reckoned on the vagaries of modern Xeroxing. However we have located another engraving of a white 'rainbow' - known as Ulloa's Circle or Ring - which we will show in a future issue - Ed.))

had a close-up view of a UFO on February 23rd and gave a superb description of it. It was, they said, circular "but did not appear to be solid; it was composed of twinkling light, the dominant colour being orange mixed with strong white and a dull red. The whole mixture appeared to revolve around itself although the object was stationary". On February 24th a light was seen over Evington, Leicester. It was seen first to be moving very quickly, then it suddenly stopped, drifted to the west and then back to the east, where it became stationary and commenced twinkling like a star.

LAPRO report a good deal of activity in March. "Tawny" and "dull yellow" cigar and saucer-shaped UFOs were reported over Leicester on March 2nd. A "U"-shaped light was seen over Birstall on March 10th. It changed to an "elliptical configuration" and slowly pulsated. UFOs were sighted on March 14th and 16th over Leicester and Thurcaston. On March 18th a police sergeant in Leicester saw a "star-shaped" light moving slowly from west to east. It stopped suddenly and then "shrank" until it disappeared. On March 19th a bright light shot across the sky over the village of Croft. Observers saw the light become stationary and then descend out of sight, as if landing. All the cases we have reported here for 1975 occurred within about 10 miles of Croft Hill.

In mid-January 1975, a saucer-like object was seen gliding across a main road near Leek, Staffs. It landed in a field adjacent to the road. It sat there flashing one red and two white lights until a passing motorist decided to stop and investigate, whereupon it promptly took off. Police were called to investigate the incident. The Stoke "Sentinel" intimated that other UFO reports had been received prior to this event.

THE SEISMOLOGICAL LANDSCAPE.

A few days after the UFO had landed near Leek, earth-tremors were reported in the Trentham/Trent Vale area 12 miles away, just south of Stoke-on-Trent. Residents had been awakened by "thumps and tremors" at 6am. The National Coal Board, which has mines in the general area, claimed that the tremors were "not connected with any mining activities". The Stoke "Sentinel" approached a geologist at Keele University but he was "not available for comment". The tremors continued and residents of the area, convinced that the NCB was the cause of the trouble, sent a petition to Jack Ashley, MP. "Our houses are not made of rubber," one householder said, "and are bound to be affected if these tremors keep going on." More accusations were levelled at the NCB but a spokesman for the Board insisted that they were not trying to crawl out of their responsibilities and the tremors were not linked with the colliery. He also mentioned that there were geological faults in the area, but nobody seemed to be listening. The "Sentinel" of January 27th reported that Jack Ashley had demanded that the NCB instigate a top-level inquiry. He said that people were becoming "very worried" about the continuing tremors which were imposing a "danger to life and limb". At the end of January the then Minister for Energy, Eric Varley, called for a full NCB report on the tremors. The NCB Area Director said that the nearest workings to the Trentham/Trent Vale area was 500 yards away. "It would be quite abnormal and outside our experience for any measurable subsidence to occur 500 yards in advance of workings 3000 feet deep," he said. He reminded everyone again that there was "severe faulting" in the area. The matter then seemed to be dropped by the press.

We wondered if the tremors had been felt further afield than the Trent valley area between Trent Vale and Stone. Checking on the Charnwood area, we were told by our Charnwood countryman that subterranean rumblings had been heard up on the Forest, which were taken to be a sign of unrest on the part of "the old volcano" (colloquial for the fault). On the 1st February our countryman informant had found that many panes of glass in his greenhouse behind his cottage had been inexplicably broken. The next day he found a drystone wall around a holly bush tumbled down.

The reader will have noticed that concurrent with this tremor activity we have been describing, there was UFO activity in the Leics.-Staffs. region.

At the end of May we visited the Stone - Trent Vale district. We were told that tremors had been reported in Trent Vale only a week before our arrival. One resident told us that he had experienced 2 tremors at the end of January. He pointed out that he hadn't actually felt a tremor in the second incident, but he assumed there must have been one "because all the horse brasses suddenly fell off a shelf" in his house. The local newsagent had felt 6 tremors in the January/February period. We saw the point where a fault crossed Riverside Road in Trent Vale. The houses either side were clearly affected - cracked walls, etc. At this precise point in the road were workings, supposedly by the Gas Board. A resident told us that the tremors were the subject of investigation by geolog-

ists from a local university.

The history of tremors in the environs of Charnwood Forest goes back hundreds of years. In 1580 the top of the steeple of the church at Stoke Golding (8 miles from Croft Hill) was shaken down by an earthquake (10). The church was built in the 1200s and today is almost entirely of that period. Hoskins says that it is worth going many miles to see (7). (Just outside the village is Crown Hill, where the crown of Richard III was placed on the head of Henry immediately after the battle of Bosworth.) In July 1738, there was an earthquake. "The weather had been excessively hot for 10 or 12 days; but, for about 24 hours immediately preceding the earthquake, the wind had stood at full North, and the temperature of the air much altered."(10). Our Shepshed vicar reports that he had felt 3 earthquakes during a 10 to 12 year period in the 1700s. "What is remarkable," he noted, "is that they have all happened pretty near the same hour of the day." In September 1750 the severe shock of an earthquake was felt to some degree in counties all around Charnwood. Houses tottered, slates, tiles and "some chimneys" fell. A child at Husbands Bosworth "was shaken out of a chair into the fire and somewhat burnt". At Narborough (3 miles from Croft) "the whole church shook with such violence that the whole congregation ran out with fear and trembling". The shock was attended with a rumbling noise. In 1795 the shock of an earthquake "was perceived" at Sapcote (2½ miles from Croft).

There was an earthquake in 1837, and in 1893 there was another, centred on Charnwood forest. This took place on August 11th immediately after a severe thunderstorm.

On the summer solstice 1904 there were 2 quakes, one of them in the Markfield area. A severe quake in 1931 damaged property in the Charnwood area, caused church bells to clang and people to run into the streets in Coalville. There were other minor quakes in the first part of the 20th century. In 1957 there occurred what was one of the most severe earthquakes ever recorded in the UK (8 on the isoseismal scale of 10). Its epicentre was beneath Charnwood Forest and it affected 11 counties. It took place on February 11th and immediately preceding the tremor curious lights, travelling in straight lines, were seen over Bradgate Park on Charnwood ("tadpole-shaped UFOs" were reported elsewhere). Subterranean rumblings were heard. A great deal of property was damaged and the Hinckley district was severely affected. The steeple of Broughton Astley church (2½ miles from Croft) was cracked. Another tremor was felt 32 hours after the first. Scientists were interested in members of the public reporting any new sources of water - springs, etc. There was another quake almost exactly a year later, on February 9th, 1958. In June 1965, there was a quake that had its epicentre under Copt Oak on Charnwood. Copt Oak is a high, ancient crossroads and its name recalls a gigantic oak that stood there up until the 19th century. It was a very ancient tree, and had been fashioned into a "Celtic Tau" by the removal of all its branches except two (7). Sapcote was again rocked by a quake in August 1971, with a noise "like thunder". In 1973, on February 11th (again!) and 12th, and in 1974 on February 9th (again!), there were further quakes.

One of the two twisted trees on Croft Hill.

... ...

END OF PART ONE

In the continuation of this work for THE NEWS, we shall chase a couple of Leicestershire Black Dogs and some ghosties through THE SUPERNATURAL LANDSCAPE (while dodging a few poltergeist-type conflagrations); peer briefly into the hidden PSYCHIC LANDSCAPE; take a very quick view over THE ANCIENT LANDSCAPE, and tarry a while at SHUGBOROUGH to consider some of its awesome mysteries. We will conclude with an essay, THE THOR FACTOR, in which we will speculate, we hope constructively, on what we suspect may be the beginning of an understanding of what one of the prime geophysical functions of the megalithic science may have been, and how it could be related to seismological and meteorological factors - and the genesis of UFOs.

... ...

References

1) Dare, MP, Charnwood Forest, 1925, Backus (Leicester)
2) Devereux, Paul & York, Andrew, The Forgotten Heart of Albion, The Ley Hunter, Nos. 66-68.
3) Flying Saucer Review, Jan/Feb 1969, Vol. 15, No 1.
4) Fort, Charles. New Lands, 1923 (Sphere 1974)
5) Goddard, Jimmy. Handbook of Leys and Orthoteny, 1966, private.
6) Graves, Robert. The White Goddess, 1961, Faber & Faber.
7) Hoskins, WG. Shell Guide to Leics, 1970, Faber & Faber.
8) Keel, John A. UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse, 1970 (Abacus, 1973)
9) Leicester Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation, 61 Barclay Street, Leicester.
10) Nichols, J. The History & Antiquities of Leics., 1795-1815, London.
11) Throsby, John. The History & Antiquities of the Ancient Town of Leicester, 1791.
12) Underwood, Guy. The Pattern of the Past, 1969 (Abacus, 1972)
13) Walker, TL. Leicester Literary & Philosophical Society Transactions, 1879.

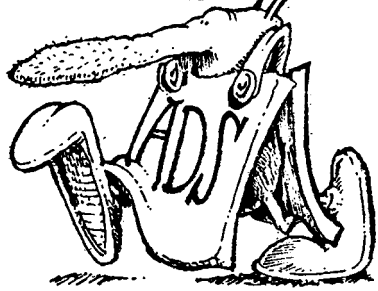
Copyright July 1975: P Devereux & A York.

APRIL FUELS, cont...

switched over to the 60/40, water/alcohol mixture to get 8 miles to the gallon. He said: "The engine loves whiskey just as well - and starts like a bomb on Normandy Calvados. Red wine too, works at a pinch, though it gums up the plugs." Great! - soon wino-cars will be giving a new look (as well as wearing) to Skid Row. Sunday Times, 13 Oct 74 (Cr: Steve Moore.)

A few weeks later, someone who had seen an account of Chambrin's claim wrote to the Sunday Express, 28 Oct 74 (Cr: CA Worth) telling of a little Portugese-American he met in the early 20s, who possessed a magic powder, which when mixed with water produced a workable substitute for petrol in unmodified engines. "One day we found a motorist stuck on the Aberglaslyn Pass in Wales. Our friend, who had a Mephistophelean appearance, put some powder in his tank, stirred it, flooded the carburretor, pulled the starter and away went the engine. We left its owner too dumbfounded to speak. He must have thought he had met the devil himself in Snowdonia." However, the value of this story is somewhat diminished by an almost identical one told for laffs (substituting Cornwall, and baffled garage-owners) in the New Scientist, 5 June 75. This form of the story now seems to be firmly established in modern rural folklore. Or - God forbid - the MIB can't leave off tricking the locals, even on vacation.

Just recently we learned that a famous Swedish inventor, Prof Baltzar von Platgen, has discovered "the theoretical basis for a perpetual motion machine," involving air, ammonia and salt, and the talk is of efficiently powering aircraft. After examining a 50-page patent specification, Prof Sam Nilsson, of the Royal Academy of Science, said he could find no basic flaw. Swedish scientific circles were said to be very excited - but several non-Swedish scientists remained sceptical, alledging that von Platgen's theory "ran counter to all known laws". Southern Evening News, 9 April 75. Cr: Roger Randle.



THE NEWS is available from the following specialist bookshops, who also keep a wide range of titles on associated subjects, SF & fantasy.

ANDROMEDA BOOK Co Ltd.
57 Summer Row, Birmingham B3 1JJ.

THE ATLANTIS BOOKSHOP:
49a Museum St, London WC1A 1LY.

COMPENDIUM BOOKS.
240 Camden High St, London NW1.

DARK THEY WERE & GOLDEN EYED.
10 Berwick St, London W1V 3RG.

TEMPS FUTURS.
3 Rue Perronet, 75007 Paris, France.

= - + - = @ = - + - = @ = - + - = @ = - + - =

Fans of the artwork of Hunt Emerson, whose krazy headings adorn our pages - and there's a growing crowd of us - may be interested to learn of the latest phase in his direct assault on the grey matters of the world. It is the recent publication of a 32 page lithoed comic about the bizarre 'Dogman'. Just 60p (plus a bit for postage) will insure you a copy of this brain-rotting material, from the Arts Lab Press, Tower Street, Birmingham B19 3UY. Live dangerously.

FINDINGS, cont...

But seriously - whatever we mean by that - we can't help thinking about a little item sent by Steve Moore, gleaned from Modern Wonder, vol4 No 97, 25 March 1939... That "recently" a lady in Ramsgate, Kent, was preparing vegetables for dinner, when there in the middle of a cut turnip she saw the body of a dead sparrow. There was no sign of any way it could have got in there, and the trick seems to have stumped all who examined the evidence.

COACH CRASHES.

During the latter end of May and most of June 47 people were killed in a spate of coach accidents that shocked Britain. Every so often we notice flurries of similar incidents - as though something was in the air, finding a similar expression wherever the conditions were met. Do you remember about 2 years ago, a wave of attacks by guard dogs on children? To our shame, we noticed too late to collect the material. Then we had a rash of people finding bodies which had lain dead and undiscovered for some time - we do have a grim collection of these to be told sometime. And now, coach crashes - though spreading the net to include all public service vehicles (PSVs) we can think of the Moorgate underground disaster, and several British Rail tragedies. Our own tally seems to have become unfindable after our recent move, so we're fortunate in that Colin Bord included his own recollections in a recent letter, on which we draw.

In the UK, it seems to have begun with an unprecedented horror in which 32 were killed when a coach went over the parapet on Devil's Bridge, Yorkshire (end of May); then there were 5 killed in an accident in Ulster (less than 2 weeks before 16 June); and 10 died when a lorry skidded into a coach near Moffat, Dumfriesshire (16 June). We believe a similar series of PSV accidents occured in the USA about 5 years ago. Amazingly, the coach is one of the safest forms of transport if you plot in terms of millions of miles traveled between each death: motorcycle, 3.6; car, 67; air, 185; coach, 500; rail, 770 - statistics from Sunday Times, 22 June 75.

Earlier in May, there were two bridge disasters within hours of each other on the 16th. 13 people were killed and 169 injured when 6 carriages of an express train jumped the rails on a flooded bridge at Vranje, Yugoslavia - and at Leiserhofen, Austria, an Alpine bridge under construction collapsed killing 10 men. Daily Mail, 17 May 75. (Cr: Steve Moore.)

THE MOORGATE UNDERGROUND DISASTER.

Your editor forgot to make a note of the date of this worst underground disaster ever in London, and which resulted in 42 killed and many badly injured when one of the trains rushed past the last station on the line to pile up in the tunnel beyond it. However, as the days went by, we began to notice that the doom visited on all concerned that day was far from ended. The Daily Mirror for the 19th April 75 reports that the guard on that train was fined £5 for stealing two cauliflowers, 5 onions and 3 potatoes from a stall a week after the crash. The previous day, 18th April, he had been criticised for leaving the breaks on the train, just before the crash. — On the 18th April the inquest on the 42 victims closed with a verdict of accidental death - the actual cause of the accident remaining a mystery. The dead driver was that very day cleared of being drunk. Poison pathologist Dr Ann Robinson was reported as saying that blood tests indicated an alcohol-level of 80 milligrams, but Dr Roy Goulding, director of the poisons unit of Guy's Hospital, contradicted this after examination of the same tests: "There are so many anomalies that I would be unable to say conclusively that he had been drinking or not." In fact a top pathologist had warned of this very problem weeks before - a body trapped for 4½ days in the hot wreckage, as Mr Newson's was, would start to generate its own alcohol. Then the coroner, a doctor himself, blamed the barristers for misconstruing Dr Robinson's testimony - the 80mg of alcohol were in Mr Newson's kidney, not in his blood. So the inquest ended, with the driver cleared after much unfortunate misunderstanding, and the actual cause remaining a mystery. — Mike Mills, one of the survivors of Moorgate, faced another horror on the 21 April. He was released from hospital, his foot still in plaster, only a few days previously, and was staying at a hotel in Queensgate, London He and 50 other guests had to flee a blazing fire in the 6-storey hotel, which police thought was started by a firebug. Daily Mirror, 22 April 75. — The Daily Mirror, 1 May 75, in publicising a report on the disaster, drew attention to one fact that would be funny if it wasn't so tragic. A doctor trying to ease the pain of those trapped sent out the message: "I want Entonox" - a form of anaesthetic. By the time the message had been passed down the chain of rescuers to the medical assistants, it had become: "The doctor wants an empty box." — On the 2nd May, Moorgate hero Michael Woods resigned from the St John's Ambulance Brigade after a row over his recue work. As soon as he heard of the disaster he had paid £6 for a taxi to get to the scene from his home in Slough, and toiled for 7 hours freeing victims from the wreckage. But instead of a pat on the back from the Brigade, he was carpeted for working outside his area. Daily Mirror, 3 May 75. — On the 10th June, Mrs Jane Simpson, 23, finally died in hospital where she had been since the Moorgate crash in February - the 43rd victim. Daily Mirror, 11 June 75.

DOES NATURE SOMETIMES FOLLOW ART?

Back in your editor's college days, one of the design course's dicta was - when in doubt lift a solution from Nature. Thus we were made conscious of the meaning of the fashionable phrase then of 'Art follows Nature'. As the years have gone by, your editor has become fascinated with the idea that Nature sometimes copies art, and that this process seems to indicate a close link between the objective and subjective worlds under

certain conditions, and is therefore an aspect of the question of Synchronicity as Jung expressed it. Consider the stories under the next three groupings.

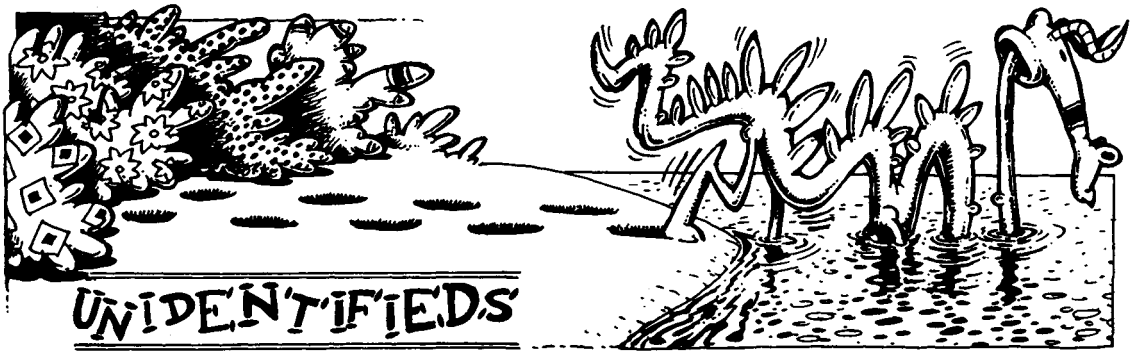
The business of a work of fiction preceeding a 'real' event is especially fascinating. In NEWS 7/17, we told of the publication of the book 'The Prime Minister's Yacht is Missing' only five days before Edward Heath's 'Morning Cloud' vanished in a severe storm off the South Coast. So it was with some amusement we noted a brief item in Paul Callan's gossip column in the Daily Mirror, 22 March 75. Lord Ted Willis told him a story about meeting runaway MP John Stonehouse over a drink when both served on a committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, last September. Stonehouse asked Willis if he was working on any new books, and Willis answered: "Yes, I've written another political thriller. It's about an MP who disappears the day before an investigation is started into his suspected espionage activities." Says Willis: "Of course no one is saying Stonehouse was a spy, but we now know that at the time he had already collected a fake passport. But he didn't bat an eyelid when I told him about the book. He just remarked: 'How interesting'." — And a recent book 'The Making of Tania Hearst' (New English Library) by David Boulton suggests that the kidnapping of heiress Patricia Hearst was inspired by a hard-core porn novel called 'Black Abductor' published in 1972. In it, an heiress called Patricia is kidnapped, messages are passed to her parents by communiqués printed in the media, is seduced by her captors and joins them. Even if, as Boulton alledges, the kidnapping was copied, they could not have counted on the real Patricia being won over so easily. But it happened nevertheless. Daily Express, 5 June 75 (Cr: S Moore).

"Another question from John Stonehouse — why does bath water drain away in the opposite direction in Australia?"
—by RAUSCH

In NEWS 8/3, we told of the Canadian Goose that crashed through a window in Derby, as the family were listening to Frankie Laine singing 'The cry of the Wild Goose'. Another two absurdities have come to us. Challenging a long range weather article which claimed that there had been no snow in June in England since 1888, Mrs DB of Tolford, Salop, wrote to the Daily Mirror, 6 June 75: "Not true. In the middle 30s there were newspaper pictures captioned 'January in June', and at the time Bing Crosby was singing his highly popular version of 'June in January'. — Mrs Muriel Melkis, of Ridgeway Drive, Dunstable, Beds, and her family were watching the film, on TV, of the sinking of the Titanic, on the evening of 7th July. Mrs Melkis says: "Just as the Titanic was about to hit the iceberg, we heard a terrific crash. We rushed outside and found tiles from our roof scattered everywhere." A big lump of ice had chosen that moment to fall from the sky smashing a 2ft square hole in their roof. Police, obviously under the assumption that it fell from an aircraft, were said to be trying to contact local aviation authorities.. Daily Mail, 8 July 75 (Cr: Steve Moore.) The Titanic, of course, which went down in April 1912, was itself prefigured in a book by Morgan Robertson called 'Futility' (USA, 1898), 14 years earlier. In it, a ship called 'The Titan' strikes an iceberg on her maiden voyage in the very same region of the Atlantic in which the Titanic met her doom. In Arthur Koestler's article on 'The Power of Chance' (Sunday Times, 5 May 74) there is also a letter from a man (born on the day the Titanic sank) who found himself on the bridge at night of a coal-tramp called the 'Titanian' in the exact position of the Titanic sinking, in April 1935. He put out a warning to stop the ship because of a deep feeling of foreboding of peril - and just in time, as a huge iceberg loomed up in the inky darkness. The Titanian was eventually rescued after drifting 9 days with a broken propeller.

On 3rd April, the actress Mary Ure was found dead by her husband, Robert Shaw and their son. Her death came only hours after a triumphant first night in a play called 'The Exorcism' in which she is possessed by the ghost of a woman who starved to death, and made to choke to death on her Christmas dinner. Mary Ure was believed to have suffocated after inhaling vomit. The play had gone well, and in the celebrations that followed Miss Ure was far from depressed or pessimistic - so it was obvious that there would be suggested links between her stage death and actual one. See most national papers on the 4th & 5th April 75. Just for the record, we record a little publicity item that appeared in the Daily Express of 29 March 75 in which the producer of the play expressed his intentions to have the theatre (Comedy Theatre, West End, London) exorcised itself, just in case. After Miss Ure's death, he publicly wished he had. What made the whole matter more hysterical in the press was the resumption of the inquest, the day before Miss Ure's death, of Michael Taylor who had, four months previously, killed his wife with his bare hands after an exorcism on him had apparently failed to rid him of his demons (see national papers around 26 March 75, and 2 April 75). — Lastly, we found in our files a note of the death of opera star Marie Collier who was killed when she fell from the balcony, 30ft to the pavement outside her Panton St, London house, on 8 Dec 1971. She had been talking to her financial adviser about a new tour of America, when she opened a window and fell out. Police said foul play was not suspected. She had come to fame when she stood in for Maria Callas in 'Tosca' at Covent Garden, 5 years ago - and 'Tosca' had been the last role before her death, and in fact was being performed again at Covent Garden the very night she died. Your editor, who knows nothing about opera, was astonished to learn that in the last act of 'Tosca'

the heroine leaps to her death. Birmingham Evening Mail 8 Dec 1971. One can only reflect on Fort's words about the continuity of truth and fiction, and wonder.



'THE BARMOUTH MONSTER' CONTINUED...

Colin Palmer, the schoolteacher whose pupils began the current interest with their clear sighting on 2 March, wrote again with further news on the "six young monsters" discovered dead on the beach at Talybont (Liverpool Daily Post, 6 May 75). The earlier thought that these were mutilated rays appears to be confirmed.

"The 'baby' monsters on the beach were Thornback rays, and when these are badly mutilated they appear to have long necks and faces. This was confirmed by the Granada TV expert ((in tow to give his opinion for a news documentary - Ed)) on marine biology, who compared the anatomy of the found specimens with that of a Thorn-back Ray and claimed them to be identical. The two 'legs' at the rear were the highly developed sex-organs of the Ray - perhaps beyond the comprehension of the two, perhaps unmarried, ladies!

"The photograph at Tyn-y-coed is an accident. I have examined the print, using the simple rules of perspective, and arrived at the decision that something crossed the lens, eg. a curl of the camera strap. The person taking the photograph said he saw nothing when he was focusing that looked out of the ordinary - only when the film was developed.

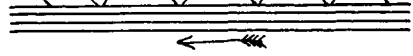
"This does seem to be rather a wet blanket of a letter, but perhaps an encouraging feature of the whole 'monster' episode is the sightings of footprints. Now, if I could only get a plaster-cast of one..."

Colin goes on to mention meeting a fellow yachtsman who claimed to have seen the 'monster' of Loch Ness, very clearly and for about 10 mins. "I showed him my drawing and he was startled because it was so similar - Mainly a large fat body, long neck, small head, and semi-fluked tail, the common features in all descriptions. One new and interesting detail this witness added was that this creature was capable of moving at a speed approaching 30 knots. His first impression was that it was indeed a boat. There were more than a few people with him at the time and they all know that what they saw was was no speedboat, since closer examination through glasses revealed the details of the head and central humps."

...AND CONTINUED...

A few weeks back we were browsing through Charles Gould's MYTHICAL MONSTERS (WH Allen, London 1886) - an amazing book - in particular, chapter 9 on 'The Sea Serpent', when what should we see on page 289 but a tale of a sea serpent in the bay off Llandudno. No date was given for the source, but we have tracked it down to Nature Vol 27, page 293 (1883): being a letter from FT Mott of Leicester, dated 16 Jan 1883:

"About 3pm on Sunday, 3 September 1882, a party of gentlemen and ladies were standing at the northern extremity of Llandudno pier, looking out to sea, when an unusual object was observed in the water near to the Little Orme's Head, travelling rapidly westwards towards the Great Orme. It appeared to be just outside the mouth of the bay, and would therefore be about a mile distant from the observers. It was watched for about two minutes, and in that interval it traversed about half the width of the bay, and then suddenly disappeared. The bay is two miles wide, and therefore the object, whatever it was, must have travelled at the rate of 30mph. It is estimated to have been fully as long as a large steamer, say 200ft; the rapidity of its motion was particularly remarked as being greater than that of any ordinary vessel. The colour appeared to be black, and the motion either cork-screw-like or snake-like, with vertical undulations. Three of the observers have since made sketches from memory, quite independently, of the impression left on their minds, and on comparing these sketches, which slightly varied, they have agreed to sanction the accompanying outline as representing as nearly as possible the object which they saw. The party consisted of W Barfoot, JP of Leicester; FJ Marlow, solicitor of Manchester; Mrs Marlow and several others. They discard the theory of birds or porpoises as not accounting for this particular phenomenon."



What Gould does not mention is that the appearance of this account generated some correspondence on the subject in the same volume of the magazine. On page 315, a Joseph Sidebotham says that he has seen the same phenomenon in Llandudno bay "four or five times" but has "no doubt whatever that it was simply a shoal of porpoises." On pge 338, Prof WS Aldis writes that in 1881 in Veulettes, Normandy, he saw many times a sight "almost exactly similar to that of the figure in (FT Mott's) letter" but after much close observation finally resolved into and revealed itself to be nothing but a peculiar flock of birds. On page 366, Dr J Rae confirms his esteemed colleague's observation with the information that the cormorants of the Orkneys, or 'scarps' are known frequently to be seen in this formation. Thus by inference Mott's sighting is 'solved' and rendered respectable.

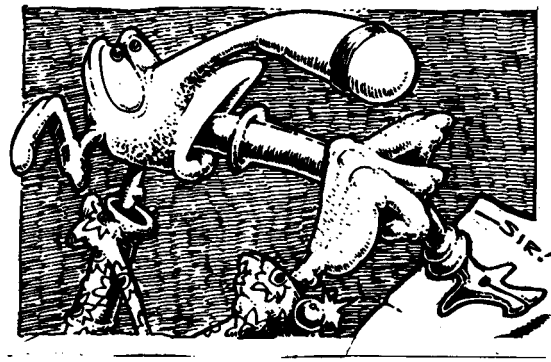
There was one tiny voice who supported Mr Mott, but his story too was ignored or forgotten. W Barfoot, on page 338, wrote: "Like your correspondent I have frequently seen a shoal of porpoises in Llandudno bay, as well as other places, and on the occasion refered to by Mr Mott (when) the idea of porpoises was at first started but immediately abandoned. I will venture to suggest that no one has seen a shoal of these creatures travel at the rate of from 25 to 30mph ((sic)). I have seen whales in the ocean, and large flocks of sea-birds, such as those of the eider-duck, skimming its surface; but the strange appearance seen at Llandudno on September 3rd was not to be accounted for by porpoises, whales, birds or breakers, an opinion which was shared by all present."

ENTER THE DRAGON.

The Florida Marine Patrol says that the slant-eyed, scrawny-looking, pink river monster that reared "about three feet" out of the St Johns River near a boat in which Mrs Dorothy Abram and friends were fishing, is probably just a big sturgeon. Mrs Abram, one of five Jacksonville residents who have seen the thing about 5 miles south of the town, disagrees with the FMP. After looking at pictures of the heads of different kinds of sturgeon, none of them matched the "ugly thing" she saw. "It was so ugly looking," said Mrs Brenda Langley, one of the party, "it looked like pictures you see of dragons. I'd like to find out what it was." It was pink "like a boiled shrimp" they said, and had little horns or fins protruding from the back of its long neck. Atlanta (Georgia) Journal & Constitution Sun, 18 May 75. Credit: Mark A Hall.

A MONSTER IN TANZANIA.

A sea monster caught off the coast of Southern Tanzania is said to have two arms sprouting from the chest, two legs (with toes) one eye in the chest, a glowing eye on its side, a toothless mouth, a horn and a beard. The Guardian, 21 May 75. (Cr: Phil Ledger.)



Form: Colin Bord.

Spectres, Aliens & Thing.

With reference to some points in NEWS 10. On page 9, re Richard III picture, the newspaper photoprinter used his 'most contrasty' black & white paper to print the colour negative and the 'ghostly' image did not show up. Kodak make a special paper, Panalure, for using with colour negatives. This comes in one grade only and is not 'contrasty'. Also it is panchromatic, sensitive to all colours in the visible spectrum, and therefore must be handled in darkness before processing, which makes it a nuisance to use - so most darkroom printers do not stock it for the occasional colour neg print, using ordinary bromide paper, which is not sensitive to the yellow/red end of the spectrum, these colours coming out as very dark or black. This is surely what has happened here. The 'pink' face and 'bright red' jewelled collar have merged into the dark background behind them. The original 'ghostly face' is intriguing enough without seeking to compound mysteries where none exist. I have noted a number of occasions in psychic investigations where the results are not readily understood by the photographers - they all too readily adopt an explanation that assumes psychic manifestations rather than acknowledge the limitations of their technical knowledge. (Incidentally, has no one noticed the face of Old Nink himself glowering from the doorway of King Richard's Well, or has this appeared only in my copy of THE NEWS?) ((The marks are in all issues but what you see as Old Nick, may not be what I see as Old Nick, perhaps they're nothing but Old Scratches anyway. You see the problem? - Ed.))

Regarding the Spectre of Chingle Hall (p7). I too have had colour shots with greenish tinges to them, but before consulting a medium I complained to the processing laboratory, who admitted their process had been faulty.

Regarding 'Aliens on Ice' (p14), variations of the story have appeared in UFO writings for the last 25 years or more. A report of one well-known version is in Frank Scully's Behind the Flying Saucers, where saucers with bodies were said to have crashed in New Mexico. Elsewhere there are stories of a crashed saucer in Spitzbergen, in the Atlantic Ocean. Either we beli-

ove there is a world-wide hush-up conspiracy involving thousands, or that these reports are part of modern showbiz-type reporting media.

Regarding 'One Last Thing' (p20) - this is reported in greater detail in FSR Jan/Feb 1968, pp15-17. The witnesses were interviewed and the article written by Charles Bowen, and is therefore likely to be more accurate than a Daily Mirror report. I say this because the FSR article gives the incident date as 12/13 Nov 67, not 16 Dec.

DID YOU SEE..?

FLYING SAUCER REVIEW vol 20 no6 (April 75). 'A Brief Taste of Fairyland' in which Ted Holiday explains further his views on the links between UFO and lake-monster phenomena, and in particular the attempt to exorcise Loch Ness. Also here is his account of his coronary attacks which he associates as a warning from a mysterious man-in-black. 'Believing is Seeing' by Janet Bord - a speculation on the nature of perception bearing in mind UFO, fairy and ghost incidents. 'The Vilvorde Humanoid' by Jean-Luc Vertongen on a most extraordinary encounter with a 'thing'. Part 3 of Schwarz's examination of the images on Stella Lansing's films. Notes on the 'Claw-men' of Pascagoula', and crocodile-skinned entities at Calgary. And 'A UFO with a Taste for Fish' by J Tyrode, hovering over a trout-farm in the French Jura ((remember our own trout-farm incident, NEWS 9/5?)) . And lots more goodies. FSR is now 50p a time from: PO Box 25, Barnet, Herts, EN5 2NR, England.

'Archeology Comes Alive' - a collection of articles of the newer techniques and experiments in Archeology, including the work of the Butser Ancient Farm, which attempts to explore theories of ancient life-styles and technology by practical experiment. Glyn Daniel is here too, so any mention of leys is out, natch! Nice pix by Colin 'Mr Ubiquitous' Bord and others, of various landscape features and artifacts. OBSERVER magazine, 18 May 75.

FATE & FORTUNE, No 14: articles on 'Coincidence'; 'Hypnosis' and 'Loch Ness'. No 15: the feats of 'Kung Fu'; 'Modern Ghost Hunting'; 'Sight through Touch alone'; 'Edgar Cayce - Healer & Prophet'; 'Abominable Snowmen; and John Keel on 'The Men in Black'. Alas this mag is no more, kaput - but all back issues are still available at 45p (inc.postage) from Dept T (M/C Ltd) PO Box 80, Slough, SL3 8BN, England. Worth getting the set for the illos alone. No15 has extensive occult and general 'mysteries' bibliography & booklist.

CRIMES & PUNISHMENT, No 7. A general witchcraft crimes issue - but contains a good general article on the murder of Charlie Walton at Lower Quinton on St Valentine's Day, 1945. One of the most interesting of modern cases, apparently of ritual murder, involving the Black Dog haunted Meon Hill. It was never solved (by Fabian of the yard) and even the great Margaret Mead went away baffled. Odd hints too, from a Warwickshire legend that in 1885 a plowboy named Charles Walton encountered the Dog 9 times. For more info see Colin Wilson's THE OCCULT, part 3 section 1.

PURSUIT vol 8 No2 (April 75). An obituary for Hans Stefan Santesson, who died 20 Feb 75. HSS on the Jessup & Allende case; Robert C Wrath on links between UFOs & ABSMs; 'Geomagnetic Storms & Fortean Events', one of the most interesting corelative projects today, by Livingston Gearhart; the first part of Ivan Sanderson's report on his and Heuvelmans's study of the 'Altura Iceman'; and much more. This is the journal of the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained (SITU), founded by Sanderson. Membership is $10.00/year, to SITU, Columbia, NJ 07832, USA.

' Every Man for Himself' by David L Overbey. A long interview with Werner Herzog,director of the award-winning film of the story of Kaspar Hauser, and some background to the plot, approach and making of the film. SIGHT & SOUND, vol 44 No2.

THE LEY HUNTER No 65. contains articles on the Charlynch Ley (Somerset); the lines from Oldham; the Long Man of Wilmington; East Anglian dragons; and what can only be a jest, on the groundplans, gardens and plumbing of mental institutions. TLH is £1.50/$6.00/year from: Paul Screeton, 5 Egton Drive, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool, Cleveland TS25 2AT.

SPECTRUM a magazine of the Occult, edited by Michael Howard, late of FATE (UK). No 4 contained Paul Screeton on 'The Sacred Alignments of Britain; MH on 'Shadows of Avalon' discussing Arthur & Glastonbury; and a 'True Psychic Experience'of terrestrial tremors, and a UFO-type thing which drove chickens wild,(alas undated or placed). No 5 has Arthur Shuttlewood on 'The Secrets of the Ancients' - basically Biblical numerology and also a preview of his coming book THE FLYING SORCERERS. SPECTRUM - £2.00/6 issues, from: Bywood Publications, 62 High St, Croydon CR9 2UT, Surrey.

NEW SCIENTIST: 17 April: discoveries of the British Antarctic Survey including the need to correct the true subglacial shoreline by up to 100 miles in places; 'Comets in Perspective' by Dr Keith Hindley. 1 May: 'A Space view of Global Magnetism'; 'Mimicry & Learning in Predator/Prey Interactions'. 15 May: 'Newton's Apple fell Faster' on the measurable decrease in strength of gravitation. 29 May: on an absurd 'Fifth State of Matter Observed' in which an electron orbits a 'hole'. 5June: 'But what about the Children?' in which Joeseph Hanlon, leader of the NS 'Uri Geller' investigation team' on the semi-final of the David Berglas/Daily Express competition for kid metal benders, with a £5000 prize - ½ to the winner & ½ to fund research on him/her. Big surprise of the day was the blatant gall of some of the kids in using all kinds of sleight with some confidence, pathetically fooling only their gullible and doting parents. But there were apparently quite a few who made it through to the finals - which should be quite interesting, following in the wake, of course, of John Taylor's book on SUPERMINDS.